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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Max Maier

Int'l. Appln. No.: PCT/EP01/04469

Int'l. Filing Date: April 19, 2001

For: AIR EXTRACTION DEVICE FOR A
WORKPLACE

Group: Not Yet Known

Examiner: Not Yet Known

Our File: MEN-PT007

Date: December 20, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being co-filed with the new §371 application which is identified above.

IN THE CLAIMS

In the German-language text of this application, which is being co-filed herewith, please cancel claims 3 - 28 inclusive, all without prejudice.

REMARKS

The complete text of this §371 application, including its claims, is being co-filed herewith in its published German-language version, in order to meet the time limit for its

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U.S. National Phase entry. The required English-language translation of this complete text is not yet available, but will be post-filed in due course.

The currently co-filed German-language application text includes multiply dependent claims 3 - 28. For convenient reference, these claims start on numbered page 24 of the co-filed German text and continue to numbered page 27, inclusive.

The present Amendment is being filed solely to eliminate these multiply dependent claims, so that their multiple dependency will not affect the filing fee calculation for this U.S. application. The German-language claims (3 to 28, inclusive), which are being cancelled hereby, were all characterized by being directly or indirectly multiply dependent on a remaining claim. By the present claim cancellations, those multiple dependencies will all have been eliminated. The only claims remaining in the co-filed German-language application text will be independent claim 1 and dependent claim 2, both of which are found on numbered page 23 of the co-filed German application text.

When the required English translation mentioned above is filed in due course, there will be co-filed a second Preliminary Amendment, which will also eliminate from that English translation all multiple dependencies of claims. It is intended that this elimination of multiple dependencies from the English translation will not be made through claim cancellations, as in the present Preliminary Amendment, but will be made by the more

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commonly used method of appropriately amending those claims which were initially multiply dependent.

The end result of all this is that the application will then contain 28 English-language claims, none of which will be multiply dependent. That is why page 2 of the enclosed Transmittal Letter . . . (Form PTO 1390) shows a fee calculation based on a total of 28 claims, but no multiple dependent claim, and so is the accompanying fee payment.

In view of all the above, it is requested that the filing fee for this application be calculated on the basis of the claim structure as described in these Remarks, and reflected on the above-mentioned page 2 of Form PTO 1390.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Maier

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Enclosures

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10/019106 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Max Maier

Serial No.: 10/019,106

Filed: April 19, 2001

Section 371 of Int'l. Appln. No.:

PCT/EP01/04469

Confirmation No.: 7823

For: AIR EXTRACTION DEVICE FOR A
WORK STATION

Group: Not Yet Known

Examiner: Not Yet Known

Our File: MEN-PT007

Date: June 3, 2002

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Kindly amend this application preliminarily as shown below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims 3 - 28, inclusive.

~~28-31~~ 29-31 An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the blower (26)
is a centrifugal blower.

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~~30~~⁴. An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the grease separating filter (30) is a cyclone filter.

~~31~~⁵. An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that a grease collecting pan (56) is located beneath the grease separating filter (30).

~~32~~⁶. An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the odor filter (32) is a zeolite filter.

~~33~~⁷. An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the air circulation loop (48) has two vertical air channels (39, 40) in the region below the work station (14), above which the space in which the blower (26) and the filter apparatus (28) are housed is connected to air openings (36, 38) on both sides of the work station (14).

~~34~~⁸. An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that a space (24') in which the blower (26) and the filter installation (28) are housed, is located beside the work station (14).

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³⁹9. An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the grease separating filter (30) and the odor filter (32) are positioned inclined with respect to the vertical (39, 40).

³⁶10. An air extraction apparatus according to claim ³⁵9, characterized in that the grease separating filter (30) is inclined with respect to the vertical at an angle of 40° to 50°, preferably of 45°.

³⁴11. An air extraction apparatus according to claim 9, characterized in that the odor filter (32) is inclined with respect to the vertical at an angle of 30° to 40°, preferably 35°.

³⁰12. An air extraction apparatus according to claim ²⁵9, characterized in that the space (24, 24') in which the blower (26) and the filter arrangement (28) are housed, is divided by the two filters (30, 32) into an entry and exit chamber (58, 60) respectively.

³⁷13. An air extraction apparatus according to claim ³⁸12, characterized in that the air outlet (50) is located in a wall of the exit chamber (60).

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⁴⁰~~14~~. An air extraction apparatus according to claim ³⁴~~8~~, characterized in that the work station (14) is a grill which extends above the space in which the blower (26) and the filter installation (28) are installed or beside that space (24').

⁴¹~~15~~. An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the air outlet (50) is so-shaped or adjusted that 75% of the air is released from the air circulation loop (48) and the remaining 25% reach the work station (14) as ambient air and form its air curtain (44).

⁴²~~16~~. An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized by at least one air intake (38, 63) for drawing ambient air into the air circulation loop (48) to replace the air released into the surroundings through the air outlet (50) from the air circulation loop (48).

⁴³~~17~~. An air extraction apparatus according to claim ⁴²~~16~~, characterized in that the air opening (38) is on the downstream side of the work station (14).

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⁴⁸
18. An air extraction apparatus according to claim ⁴²16, characterized in that the air intake is an additional air opening (63) located downstream from the air opening (38) on the downstream side of the work station (14) and upstream of the blower (26).

⁴⁵
19. An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that it forms a kitchen module (10) integrated into a kitchen work station.

⁴⁶
20. An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that both air openings (36, 38) are so located relative to each other than an air flow axis symbolizing the air curtain (44) is inclined slightly downwardly with respect to the horizontal toward the downstream air opening (38).

⁴⁷
21. An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the upstream air opening (36) is formed as a narrow exit slot and that the oppositely located downstream air opening (38) takes the form of a substantially broader intake slot.

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⁴⁸
~~22.~~ An air extraction apparatus according to claim ⁴⁷~~21~~, characterized in that the exit slot and the intake slot are formed by air guiding elements (64-67) in the vertical air channels (39, 40).

⁴⁸
~~23.~~ An air extraction apparatus according to claim ⁴⁸~~22~~, characterized in that the exit slot is inclined slightly downwardly with respect to the horizontal and in that the intake slot is provided with radii located on its oppositely positioned inner walls.

⁵⁰
~~24.~~ An air extraction apparatus according to claim ⁴⁷~~21~~, characterized in that a segment of the vertical air channel which extends behind the downstream air opening (38) is covered upwardly by an air guiding element (65).

⁵¹
~~25.~~ An air extraction apparatus according to claim ⁵⁰~~24~~, characterized in that, for increasing size of the work station and resulting increasing spacing between the upstream and downstream air openings (36, 38), the covering upper air guiding element (65', 65'') is increasingly shortened.

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⁵²
~~26.~~ An air extraction apparatus according to claim ⁵¹~~25~~, characterized in that the air guiding element (65") has an S-shaped cross-section.

⁵³
~~27.~~ An air extraction apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the work station (14) above the air openings (36, 38) is surrounded on three sides, not including its operator's side (13), by an air guiding wall, especially a splash guard (11), which increases in height starting from the operator's side (13) in a direction transverse to the air curtain (44) toward the opposite side of the work station.

⁵⁴
~~28.~~ An air extraction apparatus according to claim ⁵³~~27~~, characterized in that the air guiding wall (11) is a U-shaped edge-encircling metal sheet. --

REMARKS

When this new Section 371 application was originally filed (in its published German-language version) there was co-filed with it a Preliminary Amendment which cancelled its (also German-language) claims 3 - 28.

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As explained in the Remarks of that prior Preliminary Amendment, the purpose of that claim cancellation was to eliminate all multiply dependent claims. At that time, an English-language translation was not yet available, so that a more commonly used method for eliminating such multiple dependencies could not be employed.

That English-language translation is now available, and in fact is being co-filed with this Second Preliminary Amendment.

The present, Second Preliminary Amendment restores claims 3 - 28 (in English) but without any multiple dependencies.

Thus, there is being achieved the "end result" which was described starting on line 3 on page 3 of the prior Preliminary Amendment, namely an application with no multiply dependent claims.

As also pointed out in the Remarks of that prior Preliminary Amendment, the filing fee which was paid when this Section 371 application was originally filed, was already based on a total of 28 claims, but without any multiply dependent claims, and so was the fee payment which accompanied the filing of that application.

In view of all the above, it is requested that this application be examined on the basis of English-language claims 1 - 28.

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Respectfully submitted,

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